

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Patent Application No. 10/520,080

Applicant: Abdoulaye DOUCOURE et al.

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Examiner: Krishnan S. Menon

Docket No.: 440993

Customer No.: 23548

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.132 OF THOMAS C. GSELL, PH.D.**

Dear Sir:

I, Thomas C. Gsell, hereby declare that:

1. I am presently employed by Pall Corporation, East Hills, NY, as a Corporate Vice President, New Materials Research and Development Scientist. I have been employed by Pall Corporation since 1980. I have over 27 years of experience in membrane and fibrous media technology.
2. I received a Ph.D. in Polymer Science and Engineering from Polytechnic University, Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1990. I received an M.S. in Polymer Chemistry from Florida State University in 1980, and a B.S. from the State University of New York (SUNY) in Albany, N.Y., in 1978.

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3. I have authored, or co-authored, several publications relating to membrane technology. I have given numerous presentations relating to membrane and surface chemistry technology and characterization.

4. I am an inventor on 72 U.S. Patents.

5. I have reviewed U.S. Patent No. 5,811,251 to Hirose et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Hirose et al."), especially col. 3, line 49 through col. 4, line 42.

6. Based upon my experience, even assuming that the reference to "hydrophilic" PTFE (Hirose et al. col. 3, lines 54-55) refers to a membrane that was not surface modified with a cross-linked coating, I believe that reference to "hydrophilic" refers to either a PTFE membrane that has been pre-wetted with a low surface tension fluid, e.g., an alcohol, or refers to a PTFE membrane that was irradiated with an electron beam or gamma rays. Based upon my knowledge, a PTFE membrane pre-wetted with an alcohol, or irradiated with an electron beam or gamma rays, will not have, for example, surfaces having both an F/C ratio of about 1.2 or more and an O/C ratio in the range of from about 0.01 to about 0.15.

7. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further than these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date

Jul 22, 2008

Thomas C. Gsell, Ph.D.